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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Third session
11-28 April 1995
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. General discussion on progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, focusing on the cross-sectoral components of Agenda 21 and the critical elements of sustainability.

4. Financial resources and mechanisms.

5. Education, science, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building.

6. Review of sectoral cluster: Land, desertification, forests and biodiversity.

7. Other matters.

8. High-level meeting.

9. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Commission.

10. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its third session.

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Annotations

Item 1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1) provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen and such other officers as may be required. At the second session, the Commission elected, in addition to a Chairman, four Vice-Chairmen, one of whom also served as Rapporteur.

The membership of the Commission in 1995 is given in annex II below.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

In decision 1994/300, the Economic and Social Council approved the provisional agenda for the third session of the Commission.

Item 3. General discussion on progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, focusing on the cross-sectoral components of Agenda 21 and the critical elements of sustainability

In 1995, in accordance with the multi-year thematic programme of work adopted by the Commission at its first session (E/1993/25/Add.1, chap. I, sect. A, annex), this item is to focus on the following chapters of Agenda 21: chapter 3 (Combating poverty); chapter 5 (Demographic dynamics and sustainability); chapter 8 (Integrating environment and development in decision-making); chapters 23-32 on strengthening the role of major groups; and chapter 40 (Information for decision-making).

At its second session, the Commission decided to review matters related to trade, environment and sustainable development, as well as consumption patterns, on an annual basis.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the role and contribution of major groups (E/CN.17/1995/9)

Report of the Secretary-General on trade, environment and sustainable development (E/CN.17/1995/12)

Report of the Secretary-General on changing consumption and production patterns (E/CN.17/1995/13)

Report of the Secretary-General on poverty eradication and sustainable development (E/CN.17/1995/14)

Report of the Secretary-General on demographic dynamics and sustainability (E/CN.17/1995/15)

Report of the Secretary-General on information for decision-making and Earthwatch (E/CN.17/1995/18)

Report of the Secretary-General on integrating environment and development in decision-making (E/CN.17/1995/19)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the decisions and recommendations made by the Commission at its second session (E/CN.17/1995/22)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level (E/CN.17/1995/24)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the High-level Meeting on Trade, Environment and Sustainable Development submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Environment Programme (E/CN.17/1995/23)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting an extract from the report of the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the activities of FAO and the World Food Programme in the area of sustainable development (E/CN.17/1995/28)

Item 4. Financial resources and mechanisms

At its first session, recognizing its mandate to review the adequacy of the financial resources available for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Commission decided to establish an Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Finance to assist it in its work.

At its second session, the Commission reconfirmed the mandate of the Working Group and decided that the Working Group would consider all issues related to the financial aspects of the transfer of environmentally sound technologies. The Working Group met from 6 to 9 March 1995. The Commission will have before it the report of the Working Group.

Documentation

Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Finance (E/CN.17/1995/11)

Report of the Secretary-General on financial resources and mechanisms for sustainable development: overview of current issues and developments (E/CN.17/1995/8)

Item 5. Education, science, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building

In 1995, in accordance with the Commission's multi-year thematic programme of work, chapters 16, 34 and 35 of Agenda 21 are the focus of the cluster entitled "Education, science, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building".

10. At its second session, the Commission, taking into account the need for effective implementation of its functions related to the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building, decided that the functions of its Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Technology Transfer and Cooperation, established at its first session for a trial period of one year, would be carried out by the two ad hoc working groups as follows:

(a) The Inter-Sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Finance would consider all issues related to the financial aspects of the transfer of environmentally sound technologies;

(b) The Inter-Sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Sectoral Issues would consider technology transfer issues in relation to the specific sectoral issues under review in 1995, including the experience of individual countries.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on science for sustainable development (E/CN.17/1995/16)

Report of the Secretary-General on transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building (E/CN.17/1995/17 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on environmentally sound management of biotechnology (E/CN.17/1995/20)

Item 6. Review of sectoral cluster: Land, desertification, forests and biodiversity

In accordance with its multi-year thematic programme of work, the Commission reviews a different sectoral cluster each year. In 1995, the Commission is to review the cluster entitled "Land, desertification, forests and biodiversity" on the basis of the following chapters of Agenda 21:

(a) Integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources (chapter 10);

(b) Combating deforestation (chapter 11); and the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests;

(c) Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought (chapter 12);

(d) Managing fragile ecosystems: sustainable mountain development (chapter 13);

(e) Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development (chapter 14);

(f) Conservation of biological diversity (chapter 15).

At its first session, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to prepare thematic reports, corresponding to the Agenda 21 sectoral clusters to be included in the agendas of forthcoming sessions of the Commission, in accordance with its multi-year thematic programme of work.

At its second session, the Commission decided to establish an inter-sessional ad hoc open-ended working group composed of Governments, with a one-year mandate, which would nominate experts to assist the Commission in the preparation, in a coordinated and integrated way, of the examination of sectoral issues to be reviewed by the Commission at its third session, in accordance with the Commission's multi-year thematic programme of work - namely, the sectoral cluster entitled "Land, desertification, forests and biodiversity".

The Commission also decided that the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Sectoral Issues would consider technology transfer issues in relation to the specific sectoral issues under review in 1995, including the experience of individual countries.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on an integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources (E/CN.17/1995/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on combating deforestation and on the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (E/CN.17/1995/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought (E/CN.17/1995/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on managing fragile ecosystems: sustainable mountain development (E/CN.17/1995/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development (E/CN.17/1995/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on conservation of biological diversity (E/CN.17/1995/7)

Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Sectoral Issues (E/CN.17/1995/10)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the statement of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (E/CN.17/1995/27)

Letter dated 26 January 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Forests held at Ottawa/Hull, Canada from 10 to 14 October 1994 (E/CN.17/1995/26)

Item 7. Other matters

Item 8. High-level meeting

In resolution 47/191, the General Assembly recommended that the Commission adopt at its first session a multi-year thematic programme of work, including a high-level meeting, with ministerial participation, to have an integrated overview of the implementation of Agenda 21, to consider emerging policy issues and to provide necessary political impetus to the implementation of the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and commitments contained therein.

At its first session, the Commission decided that, as a rule, its high-level meetings should last for a period of up to three days and that they should be integral parts of the session of the Commission and its decision-making process. The organization of work of the high-level meetings should, inter alia, provide for an open exchange of views among the participants and for holding informal meetings, as the need arose to resolve outstanding issues related to the work of the Commission that required high-level consideration. The result of the meeting could be a concise document, should the participants deem that appropriate.

Also at its first session, the Commission recommended that the report of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development, containing its expert advice on issues relating to the implementation of Agenda 21, be submitted to the Commission through the Secretary-General.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on policy issues that may be addressed at the high-level segment of the Commission (E/CN.17/1995/21)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development on its third session (E/CN.17/1995/25)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the statement of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (E/CN.17/1995/27)

ACC statement to the Commission on Sustainable Development

Item 9. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General shall submit a draft provisional agenda for the Commission's forthcoming session,

indicating in respect of each agenda item the documents to be submitted under that item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider the documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission and of their urgency and relevance in the light of the current situation.

Item 10. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its third session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission reports to the Council on the work of each session.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/191, the Commission provides appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council.

Annex I

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The proposed organization of work for the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development has been drawn up on the basis of the decisions taken by the Commission at its organizational session and on informal consultations conducted by the Chairman with the Bureau.

Proposed programme of work

Week of 11-13 April

Tuesday, 11 April		Opening of the session
a.m.	Item 1	Election of officers
	Item 2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
p.m.	Item 4	Financial resources and mechanisms (Introduction of the report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Finance, followed by a Panel discussion)
Wednesday, 12 April		
a.m.	Item 6	Review of sectoral cluster: Land, desertification, forests and biodiversity (Introduction of the report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Sectoral Issues, followed by a Panel discussion)
p.m.	Item 3	General discussion on progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, focusing on cross-sectoral components of Agenda 21 and the critical elements of sustainability
		General discussion
Thursday, 13 April		
a.m. and p.m.	Item 3	Continued

Week of 17-21 April		
Monday, 17 April		
a.m. and p.m.	Item 5	Education, science, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building
		General discussion
Tuesday, 18 April		
a.m. and p.m.		Exchange of country experiences
p.m.		Day of local authorities
Wednesday, 19 April		
a.m. and p.m.		Exchange of country experiences
Thursday and Friday, 20 and 21 April		Drafting groups
Week of 24-28 April		
Monday and Tuesday, 24 and 25 April		Drafting groups
Wednesday, 26 April		
a.m.		Consideration of the work of the drafting groups
	Item 7	Other matters
p.m.	Item 8	High-level meeting
Thursday, 27 April		
a.m. and p.m.	Item 8	Continued
Friday, 28 April		
a.m.	Item 8	Continued
p.m.	Item 8	Continued
	Item 9	Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Commission
	Item 10	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its third session

Annex II

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN 1995

	Term expires on 31 December
Antigua and Barbuda	1995
Australia	1997
Bahamas	1997
Bangladesh	1997
Barbados	1996
Belarus	1996
Belgium	1995
Bolivia	1995
Brazil	1997
Bulgaria	1996
Burkina Faso	1995
Burundi	1997
Canada	1996
Chile	1995
China	1995
Ethiopia	1997
Finland	1997
France	1997
Gabon	1995
Germany	1995
Ghana	1997
Guinea	1996
Hungary	1997
Iceland	1995
India	1996
Indonesia	1995
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1997
Italy	1996
Japan	1996
Malawi	1995
Malaysia	1996
Mexico	1996
Morocco	1996
Namibia	1995
Netherlands	1995
Pakistan	1995
Papua New Guinea	1997
Peru	1997
Philippines	1997
Poland	1995
Republic of Korea	1995
Russian Federation	1995
Senegal	1997
Spain	1997

	Term expires on 31 December
Tunisia	1995
Turkey	1995
Uganda	1996
Ukraine	1997
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1996
United Republic of Tanzania	1996
United States of America	1996
Uruguay	1995
Venezuela	1996